

SUPPORT FOR THE "LET WALL STREET PAY FOR THE RESTORATION OF MAIN STREET ACT" INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFAZIO

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, years of deregulation and exorbitant risk-taking in the financial markets contributed to the financial turmoil we're in today. Last week, the House passed a bill that would bring common sense reforms on Wall Street so that taxpayers would never again be on the hook for bailing out firms and banks for their risky, irresponsible behavior.

Congress must now pass legislation that puts people back to work. Through TARP, the federal government loaned billions of taxpayer dollars to Wall Street. It's time for Wall Street to help create jobs on Main Street.

This can happen in two ways: by using some of the available TARP funds and by imposing a modest Wall Street transaction tax on certain securities trades. This latter proposal could raise up to \$150 billion a year, part of which could go toward infrastructure investment and partly to debt reduction.

I ask my colleagues to support these proposals so that we can curb speculation and create jobs that will put Americans back to work again.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP TO FIND FUGITIVES

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud a new Public Safety Partnership launched in my home state of Florida during this holiday season. This unique effort, entitled "12 Days of Fugitives," is an innovative public outreach plan with the end goal of helping the state and local law enforcement apprehend 12 of Florida's oldest and most violent prison escapees.

The Florida Department of Corrections and Florida Department of Law Enforcement are working with the U.S. Marshals Service, local law enforcement, and the media on this new initiative. Specifically, members of the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association are donating space on digital billboards to display a tip line telephone number together with pictures of the fugitives. In addition, Florida newspapers have committed to feature the fugitives online and in print.

The idea is to empower the public to come forward with information about the whereabouts of these escapees. The most recent escape occurred in 2000; others have been on the run for decades.

Florida has consistently been a pioneer in these types of public safety partnerships. From the beginning, the outdoor advertising

industry was part of the AMBER Alert system in Florida. Now, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children posts AMBER Alerts on digital billboards across the country.

Madam Speaker, protecting our society from violent crime is extremely important, and often overlooked during this holiday time. This intensive public outreach in the state gives hope to the families and friends of the victims of crime that the perpetrators will be caught and brought to justice. I commend the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association and the media for working together to make Florida a safer place to live, work, and visit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 14, 2009, rollcall vote 969, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended—H. Res. 779, Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 970, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 942, Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup—I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the two rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately, I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 969 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Res. 779—Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 970 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 942—Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009, I was un-

avoidably unable to cast my votes for rollcall No. 969 and rollcall No. 970. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4284, a bill that would increase our trade deficit, compromise our labor laws, and delay a much-needed reform to our nation's trade policy.

Since the last extension, in October 2008, Congress has still not adequately addressed the fundamental problems in relation to agriculture and labor practices in this trade preference agreement.

With the on-going debate surrounding the Colombia Free Trade Agreement and the South Korea Free Trade Agreement, and the sharp economic recession, it would be irresponsible to simply extend these preferences without thorough discussions on the effects of our trade policy on American jobs.

Originally passed in 1991, the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) was designed to develop economic alternatives to narcotics production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

However, ATPA has failed to reduce cocaine production and it has harmed American farmers.

As a result of the ATPA, the U.S. had a \$7 billion trade deficit with the four ATPA countries in 2008.

Overall, the U.S. trade deficit has grown to more than \$738 billion and trade policies have cost America 3.2 million manufacturing jobs over the past 10 years.

Because both the Bush and Obama administrations deemed that Bolivia failed to meet eligibility criteria, H.R. 4284 would extend trade preferences only with Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Before extending the Andean Trade Preferences Act for a fourth time, Congress should take a closer look at damage it has done to American farmers and how it has failed to reduce illegal drug production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Among the great economic challenges our nation faces is creating new trade and globalization policies that serve America's workers, consumers, farmers, and firms.

The Obama administration and Congress have an opportunity to rewrite our trade policy and to create a trade framework that supports American jobs.

Let's seize this opportunity to create a new framework for trade agreements.

New trade agreements must meet basic standards to protect labor rights, environmental standards, food safety regulations, financial regulations, and taxation transparency.

Most importantly, new trade agreements must protect American workers first.

I urge you to vote against H.R. 4284 when it comes to the House floor today so that we can focus on reforming America's trade laws.